



Summative Assessment Master Work Plan and Procurement Schedule September 16, 2011

SMARTER Balanced is a state-led consortium working to develop next-generation assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards that accurately measure student progress toward college and career readiness. Our approach includes computer adaptive summative and interim assessments, as well as formative resources for teachers to monitor student progress. These tools will provide real-time information to teachers, parents and schools to help students stay on track and graduate high school ready to succeed in college and the workplace.

Planning for Success

In order to deliver a fully functional assessment system by the 2014-2015 school year, the Consortium is creating detailed work plans that specify the major activities required to create the summative and interim assessments and formative assessment practices for teachers. Created in cooperation with Consortium member states, work groups and partners, these documents are available at: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/Resources.aspx>.

Summative Assessment Master Work Plan

The Summative Assessment Master Work Plan includes 95 “Level 1” activities that encompass significant tasks organized into eight major areas: assessment design; writing of items and tasks; pilot testing; field testing; research and evaluation; technology development; governance and project management; and communications. Each activity includes a description of the expected outcome and scope, providing a clear outline of the Consortium’s approach.

Figure 1. Detail from Summative Assessment Master Work Plan

ID	Task Name
Assessment Design	
1	Conduct Initial Analysis of the Content and Structure of the Common Core State Standards <i>Expected Outcome:</i> Initial analysis of how each standard within the CCSS could be assessed in terms of item/task ¹ type and depth of knowledge. Intended to support content and curriculum specialists and test and item/task development experts. <i>Scope Parameters:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis and recommendations for all English language arts and mathematics standards in grades 3–8 and high school Multiple levels of review, including SBAC Technical Advisory Committee, SBAC member states, and SBAC Executive Committee

Summative Assessment Procurement Schedule

The Summative Assessment Procurement Schedule is based on the Master Work Plan and groups tasks that are similar, or have strong interdependencies, together to create a coherent procurement process. Each contract solicitation is highlighted in yellow, with the tasks listed below and an expected timeline for the RFP release and contract start. RFPs will allow vendors to describe their recommendations regarding how the Consortium should buy, enhance or build products to meet the full breadth of the Consortium's needs in the most efficient and cost effective manner.

Figure 2. Detail from Summative Assessment Procurement Schedule

Level 1 ID (from MWP)	Bundle # and Name / Level 1 Task Name (RFP bundles highlighted in yellow)	RFP Posted	Contract Starts
	#2 — IT Readiness	Late Jun '11	Early Sep '11
63	Develop IT Readiness Tool		
64	Maintain and Support IT Readiness Tool		
	#3 — IT Systems Architecture	Late Jun '11	Early Sep '11
65	Establish IT Systems Architecture		
66	Conduct IT Systems Integration Architecture Maintenance and Support Services		



Taken together, the Summative Assessment Master Work Plan and Procurement schedule provide member states, partners and prospective vendors with a roadmap of the Consortium's activities and procurements over the next three years.

What Comes Next

Before the end of the calendar year, the Consortium will prepare similar work plans and procurement schedules for the interim assessment and the formative assessment practices components of our overall design.

For More Information

To learn more about SMARTER Balanced, visit: www.smarterbalanced.org. If you have questions or comments, please email us at: SBAC@WestEd.org.